

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for closing an opening in a tissue, the device comprising: a shaft having a proximal end portion, a distal end portion, and a foot receptacle disposed at the distal end portion; a foot disposed within the foot receptacle on the distal end portion of the shaft and spaced apart from the proximal end portion, the foot being movable from within the foot receptacle to a deployed position with the foot extending laterally across the distal end portion of the shaft and from the shaft; and a flexible guidebody coupled to and extending distally from the distal end portion of the shaft beyond the foot receptacle.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire lumen.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the flexible guidebody has a distal end, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire entry port at the flexible guidebody distal end, and wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire exit port situated along the flexible guidebody at a location proximal to the guidewire entry port.
4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the guidewire exit port is situated at a location distal to the distal end portion of the shaft.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein a portion of the shaft curves such that the flexible guidebody extends from the shaft at an angle relative to an axis of the shaft.
6. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a length of suture supported by the foot, the length of suture having a first end and a second end, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a lumen, and wherein the length of suture between the first end and the second end extends distally within the lumen of the flexible guidebody.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a needle advanceable from the shaft through the tissue and to the foot when the foot is moved to a deployed position.
8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the tissue is a wall of a blood vessel.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for closing an opening in a tissue, the method comprising: providing a shaft having a distal end portion, a proximal end portion, and a foot receptacle disposed at the distal end portion, at least a portion of the foot receptacle passing through the shaft, a flexible guidebody coupled to and extending distally from the distal end portion of the shaft, the shaft having a movable foot disposed within the foot receptacle at the distal end portion of the shaft and spaced apart from the proximal end portion, the foot being movable from within the foot receptacle to a deployed position with the foot extending laterally across the distal end portion of the shaft and from the shaft; and inserting the flexible guidebody through the opening, the flexible guidebody guiding the shaft to the opening.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising partially withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the opening to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising using a guidewire to guide the flexible guidebody through the opening.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising: moving the foot from a parked position to the deployed position; forming a needle path from the shaft through the tissue; and advancing a suture through the tissue along the needle path to position a suture loop across the opening.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising: securing the suture loop to close the opening; and fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the opening after the suture loop is at least partially secured.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the tissue is a wall of a blood vessel.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for closing an opening in a tissue, the device comprising: a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a foot receptacle disposed at the distal end portion, at least a portion of the foot receptacle passing through the shaft, a portion of the shaft being curved adjacent the distal end; a foot disposed within the foot receptacle near the distal end of the shaft to minimize a cross-section of the shaft and spaced apart from the proximal end, the foot being movable from within the foot receptacle to a deployed position with the foot extending laterally across the distal end portion of the shaft and from the shaft and a flexible guidebody coupled to and extending distally from the distal end of the shaft at an angle relative to an axis of the shaft.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire lumen.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein the flexible guidebody has a distal end, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire entry port at the flexible guidebody distal end, and wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire exit port situated along the flexible guidebody at a location proximal to the guidewire entry port.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein the guidewire exit port is situated at a location distal to the distal end of the shaft.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15, further comprising a length of suture supported by the foot, the length of suture having a first end and a second end.

21. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a suture storage lumen.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 15, further comprising a needle advanceable from the shaft through the tissue and to the foot when the foot is in a deployed position.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for closing an opening in a tissue, the method comprising: providing a shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a foot receptacle disposed at the distal end portion, at least a portion of the foot receptacle extending through the shaft, a flexible guidebody coupled to and extending distally from the distal end of the shaft, the shaft having a movable foot disposed within the foot receptacle at the distal end of the shaft to minimize a cross-section of the shaft and spaced apart from the proximal end, the foot being movable from within the foot receptacle to a deployed position with the foot extending laterally across the distal end portion of the shaft and from shaft; and inserting the flexible guidebody through the opening; and partially withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the opening to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising using a guidewire to guide the flexible guidebody through the opening.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the opening in the tissue is accessed through a tissue tract through subcutaneous tissue.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising: forming a needle path from the shaft through the vessel wall; and advancing a suture through the vessel wall along the needle path to position a suture loop across the opening.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising: securing the suture loop to close the opening; and fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel after the suture loop is at least partially secured.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for closing an opening in a tissue, the method comprising: providing a shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a foot receptacle disposed at the distal end, at least a portion of the foot receptacle extending through the shaft, a flexible guidebody coupled to and extending distally from the distal end of the shaft, the shaft having a movable foot within the foot receptacle at the distal end of the shaft to minimize a cross-section of the shaft and spaced apart from the proximal end, the foot being movable from within the foot receptacle to a deployed position within the foot extending laterally across the distal end portion of the shaft and from the shaft; and using a guidewire to guide the flexible guidebody through the opening.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising partially withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the opening to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising: forming a needle path from the shaft through the tissue adjacent the opening; and advancing a suture through the tissue along the needle path to position a suture loop across the opening.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising: securing the suture loop to close the opening; and fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel after the suture loop is at least partially secured.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for closing an opening in a vessel wall of a blood vessel, the opening disposed within a tissue tract of a patient body, the method comprising: providing a shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a foot receptacle disposed at the distal end, at least a portion of the foot receptacle extending through the shaft, a foot disposed within the foot receptacle near the distal end of the shaft and spaced apart from the proximal end, the foot being movable from within the foot receptacle to a deployed position with the foot extending laterally across the distal end portion of the shaft and from the shaft, and a flexible guidebody coupled to and extending from the distal end of the shaft, wherein a portion of the shaft has a curve such

that the flexible guidebody extends from the shaft at an angle relative to an axis of the shaft; and inserting the flexible guidebody through the opening into the vessel such that the flexible guidebody is positioned coaxially within the vessel and the shaft is positioned coaxially within the tissue tract.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the foot is movable from a parked position to a deployed position, wherein the foot is aligned with the vessel when in the deployed position.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising partially withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising using a guidewire to guide the flexible guidebody through the opening and into the blood vessel.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising: forming a needle path from the shaft through the vessel wall; and advancing a suture through the vessel wall along the needle path to position a suture loop across the opening.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising: securing the suture loop to close the opening; and fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel after the suture loop is at least partially secured.

38. (Currently Amended) A device for closing an opening in tissue, the device comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, said shaft having at least one pin spaced apart from the proximal end portion;
a foot having at least one slot, said at least one slot being connected to said at least one pin at said distal end portion of said shaft, said foot being movable with respect to said shaft; and
a flexible guidebody extending from said distal end portion of said shaft, the flexible guidebody configured to receive a guidewire usable to position the device.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein said at least one slot is axially movable with respect to said at least one pin.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein said foot is rotationally movable about said at least one pin.

41. (Currently Amended) A device for closing an opening in tissue, the device comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, said shaft having a foot receptacle;
a foot slidably received within said receptacle, said foot being movable with respect to said shaft; and
a flexible guidebody extending from said distal end of said shaft, the flexible guidebody configured to receive a guidewire usable to position the device.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 41, wherein said foot axially movable within said receptacle.

43. (Currently Amended) A device for closing an opening in tissue, the device comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a foot receptacle;
a foot within said foot receptacle on said distal end of said shaft, said foot being movable with respect to said shaft, said foot having at least one other receptacle, said at least one other receptacle having at least one slot oriented with respect to a surface of the at least one other receptacle; and
a flexible guidebody extending from said distal end of said shaft, the flexible guidebody configured to receive a guidewire usable to position the device.

44. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 43, wherein said at least one slot extends substantially tangentially to said surface of said at least one other receptacle.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 44, wherein said at least one slot extends laterally through said foot.